

REMARKS

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended the independent claims to add the element of modifying a billing identification number. Accordingly, the independent claims now recite ***both*** modifying a billing identification number ***and*** modifying a calling party identification number. Because Shaffer et al. teaches only modifying a billing identification number and does not teach the additional act of modifying a calling party identification number, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections against the claims should be removed.¹

The independent claims recite automatically modifying the calling party identification number to an identification number of a group associated with the calling party. By automatically modifying the calling party identification number to an identification number of the group associated with the calling party, the Caller ID information presented to a called party is the information of the group associated with the calling party – not the information of the calling party itself. Accordingly, calls made to called parties on behalf of the group will be identified as originating from the group (*e.g.*, Acme Industries) instead of the individual placing the call from his home (*e.g.*, John Doe).

In contrast, U.S. Patent No. 6,130,935 to Shaffer et al. teaches changing the billing identification number (*e.g.*, the ANI) from that of the calling party to that of the business. While this change allows calls made with the work-at-home telecommunication service to be charged to the business instead of the individual making the call, the Caller ID information presented to a called party is that of the individual placing the call (*e.g.*, John Doe) — not the group (*e.g.*, Acme

¹ It should be noted that these amendments are being made merely to expedite the prosecution of this application and should not be interpreted as an acquiescence to the rejections in the Office Action. Applicants intend on filing a continuation application to pursue the subject matter of the un-amended claims and expressly reserve the right to disqualify Shaffer et al. as prior art.

Industries).

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that he is interpreting the phrase “calling party identification number” to cover a billing identification number (*e.g.*, ANI) because the unmodified ANI identifies the calling party. To make clear that the calling party identification number recited in the claims is different from the billing identification number modified in Shaffer, Applicants have amended the independent claims to add the recitation of modifying the billing identification number. In this way, the independent claims now recite ***both*** modifying the calling party identification number ***and*** modifying the billing identification number.

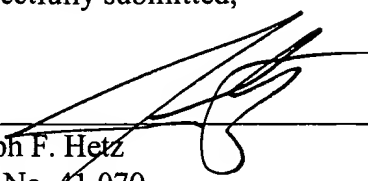
The passages cited in the Office Action, at most, teach one ***but not both*** of the recited elements. As discussed in the previous response, while Shaffer et al. teaches modifying the billing identification number, Shaffer et al. teaches that the calling party identification number is ***not*** modified. Figures 3a-c show a call message, which includes the dialed number, the ANI, and “other information.” The calling party identification number is presumably included in the “other information.” Figure 3b shows the call message before translation, and Figure 3c shows the call message after translation. As is clearly shown in Figure 3c, only the dialed number and the ANI are modified from their original form. ***The “other information” (e.g., the calling party identification number) is not modified.***

In summary, the element added in the independent claims makes clear that the previously-recited element of modifying a calling party identification number is different from modifying a billing identification number. At most, Shaffer et al. teaches modifying a billing identification number, and there is no additional teaching in Shaffer et al. of modifying a calling party identification number, as recited in the claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections against the claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at
(312) 321-4719 to discuss this Amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,



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